

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A distributed component system in a network comprising:

a client node configured to process client activation requests; and

a server node configured to monitor activation requests from the client node, said node operating to enable the client node to activate remote components on available server nodes without specific names or capabilities of nodes in the network servicing the requests,

wherein said remote components comprise reusable program building blocks that are combinable with one or more other components in a distributed network to form an application.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said network comprises a local-area network, a wide-area network, or Internet.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said activation requests are processed by a client node that includes enhancements to a network protocol of the client node.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said server node include enhancements to a network protocol of the server node.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a machine-independent activation request from a client in a network, wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate a reusable program building block that is combinable with one or more other reusable program building blocks in the network to form an application;
multicasting said activation request to the network; and
receiving capability information from servers available to service said activation request.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the capability information includes a list of server IP addresses or UNC names of servers that have the ability to service a request for a specific CLSID.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

monitoring at a server a specific port to receive a machine-independent client activation request within a network,
wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate
a reusable program building block that is combinable with one or
more other reusable program building blocks in the network to
form an application;

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retrieving a client address from an IP packet associated with the request; and

returning capability information of the server to the client address.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein monitoring the specific port includes monitoring a port that is tied to a multicast IP address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein returning includes returning a server IP address.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving a machine independent activation request from a client in a network, wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate a reusable program building block that is combinable with one or more other reusable program building blocks in the network to form an application;

multicasting said activation request to the network;

requesting capability information from servers available to service said activation request;

monitoring a port that is tied to a multicast IP address;

retrieving a client address from an IP packet; and

returning capability information of the server to the client address.

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15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A computer program, residing on a computer readable medium, the program comprising executable instructions that enable the computer to:

receive a machine-independent activation request from a client in a network, wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate a reusable program building block that is combinable with one or more other reusable program building blocks in the network to form an application;

multicast said activation request to the network; and

receive capability information from servers available to service said activation request.

21. (Currently amended) A computer program, residing on a computer readable medium, the program comprising executable instructions that enable the computer to:

monitor at a server a specific port that is tied to a multicast IP address to receive a machine-independent client activation request within a network, wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate a reusable program building block that is combinable with one or more other reusable program building blocks in the network to form an application;

retrieve a client address from an IP packet associated with the request; and

return capability information of the server to the client address.

22. (Currently amended) A computer program, residing on a computer readable medium, the program comprising executable instructions that enable the computer to:

receive a machine-independent activation request from a client in a network, wherein said activation request comprises a request to activate a reusable program building block that is

combinable with one or more other reusable program building blocks in the network to form an application;
multicast said activation request to the network;
request capability information from servers available to service said activation request;
monitor a port that is tied to a multicast IP address;
retrieve a client address from an IP packet; and
return capability information of the server to the client address.

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23. (Currently amended) A distributed component network comprising:

client nodes configured to be able to request activation of remote components at run-time without specific names or capabilities of nodes servicing those requests; and
server nodes operating to monitor the requests and respond appropriately to service the requests, wherein said remote components comprise reusable program building blocks that are combinable with one or more other components in the distributed component network to form an application.